

AGENCY: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8

TITLE: Regional Priorities Grant Program

SOLICITATION #: EPA-R8-2008-001

DATE OF INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: November 15, 2007

ACTION: Request for Proposals – Initial Announcement

Overview

A. Introduction

This is a Request For Proposals (RFP) for the U.S. EPA Region 8's Fiscal Year 2008 Regional Priorities Grant Program. The purpose of this RFP is to announce the availability of funding from five Region 8 grant programs for projects that are to be conducted within the boundaries of Region 8. The five funding programs are:

- 1) Regional Geographic Initiatives
- 2) Indoor Environments
- 3) Source Reduction Assistance (Pollution Prevention)
- 4) Strategic Agriculture Initiative
- 5) Resource Conservation Challenge (RCC) Grant Initiative

Please note that the Total Maximum Daily Load grants are not part of this solicitation as they were last year.

Region 8 is competitively seeking project proposals that will achieve measurable environmental and public health results within the following priority areas:

- 1) Energy and Climate Change
- 2) Agriculture
- 3) Mercury
- 4) Enhancing State or Tribal Capacity to Provide Public Health and Environmental Protection in Region 8

Each of these priorities and the above funding programs is discussed in further detail in Section I of this solicitation.

B. CFDA Numbers

Grants, cooperative agreements and inter-agency agreements will be awarded under the following Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) numbers:

- 66.034** Surveys, studies, investigations, demonstrations, and special purpose activities relating to the Clean Air Act (Indoor Environments Program)

- 66.112** Surveys, studies, investigations, demonstrations, and special purpose grants for Regional Geographic Initiatives
- 66.716** Surveys, studies, demonstrations, educational outreach and special projects within the Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances (Strategic Agriculture Initiative)
- 66.717** Source Reduction Assistance (Pollution Prevention)
- 66.808** Solid Waste Management Assistance

C. Important Dates

Proposals can be mailed via U.S. Postal Service and must be **postmarked by January 18, 2008**. Proposals can also be submitted via UPS, Federal Express, or other commercial delivery service and must be **received by EPA by 5:00 p.m. (Mountain time) on January 18, 2008**. Proposals can also be submitted electronically via the web site www.grants.gov and, if this method is used, proposals must be received by Grants.gov **by 5:00 pm. (mountain time) on January 18, 2008**. See Section IV for further instructions on submitting a proposal. Late proposals will not be accepted.

Questions regarding this solicitation will be accepted until **5:00 p.m. (mountain time) on January 9, 2008** and must be submitted in writing to the following e-mail address: r8cfp@epa.gov. Questions sent to this e-mail address will be responded to via e-mail within 72 hours and the question and answer will be posted on the web site <http://www.epa.gov/region8/grants/> (see “Regional Priorities Grant Program Questions and Answers”) for all interested parties to read. If you do not have an e-mail address, questions can be faxed to Linda Walters at (303) 312-6044. Please include a phone number so you may be contacted with a response.

EPA reserves the right to amend this solicitation as deemed necessary. Amendments could be administrative in nature (e.g., change of dates), technical (change in requirements) or changes which affect the anticipated funding. If this need occurs, EPA will post the amended solicitation at the same internet location as this announcement (<http://www.epa.gov/region8/grants/>) and the amendment will also be posted on www.grants.gov.

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Section I: Funding Opportunity Description

A. Background

For Fiscal Year 2008 EPA Region 8 is announcing five different funding programs in one solicitation called the Regional Priorities Grant Program. The purpose for this single announcement is to ensure that funding programs are competed in accordance with EPA policies, to ensure that our stakeholders know about the various funding programs that are available to them, and to ensure that funds are being awarded for high quality projects that meet the priorities of the Region. The statutory authorities for awards made under this funding opportunity include the following:

Clean Water Act, Section 104

Clean Water Act, Section 303(d)

Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)

Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, Section 20

Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1442(a)(1) and (c)

Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001

Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10

Pollution Prevention Act of 1990

B. EPA Region 8 Priorities

Under this solicitation, EPA Region 8 will fund projects that are selected based on the evaluation criteria and selection process described in Section V. Below is a brief description of each funding priority and the funding programs that are applicable to the priority area. Specific priorities for each funding program are described in more detail in Section I., Part D, Description of Funding Programs.

1) Clean Energy and Climate Change

a) **Clean Energy.** EPA Region 8's six States and 27 Tribal Nations collectively contain extensive fossil fuels, alternative fuels and renewable energy resources – so extensive that the Region is in many ways the center of the nation's energy future. The current emphasis is on resource exploration, development, production, transmission, storage, and distribution to meet growing demand and foster national security. EPA supports environmentally protective energy activities. Energy projects in Region 8 are increasing. More coal production and coal-fired electrical power plants are being planned, along with electrical transmission corridors, and more oil and natural gas wells, pipelines and storage facilities are being developed. Increased road construction is expected to service this infrastructure. Pilot oil shale processing is being advanced in two states. Ethanol production plants under development are rising. Uranium production is becoming economic again. All of these activities impact the quality of the air, water, and land. EPA Region 8's programs, where not delegated, regulate environmental aspects of these energy-related activities. In those instances where a program has been delegated to a state or tribal organization, EPA maintains oversight responsibilities.

Region 8 also has a strong ENERGY STAR® program that promotes energy efficient homes and buildings. Funding programs in this solicitation that support activities for this priority include the Regional Geographic Initiatives and the Source Reduction Assistance (Pollution Prevention) Program. Please see Section 1, Part D, Description of Funding Programs, for specific information on the types of projects that would be applicable to the energy priority.

b) **Climate Change.** The Administrator of EPA has identified “Energy and Climate Change” as the Agency’s top priorities. In addition, Region 8, in consultation with the Region’s State Environmental Directors and State Agriculture Directors, has added “Climate Change” as one of the Region’s six top priorities. The States of Montana, Utah, and Colorado are preparing action plans to address Climate Change.

“Greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere will increase during the next century unless greenhouse gas emissions decrease substantially from present levels. Increased greenhouse gas concentrations are very likely to raise the Earth’s average temperature, influence precipitation and some storm patterns as well as raise sea levels.” (The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) – 2007)

Many actions in all sectors of private industry, agriculture, utilities, government, communities, and homes, are needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Over 35 cities and towns in Region 8 have shown leadership by adopting specific plans, regulations, and tax incentives to reduce greenhouse gases and promote sustainable development. This priority is intended to show that greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced or mitigated in cost effective ways. Funding programs in this solicitation that support activities for the priority include the Indoor Environments Program, Source Reduction Assistance (Pollution Prevention) Program, Strategic Agriculture Initiative, and the Resource Conservation Challenge Grant Program. Please see Section I, Part D, Description of Funding Programs, for specific information on the types of projects that would be applicable to the climate change priority.

2) Agriculture

In terms of geography, agricultural activities represent the largest land use and the most widespread set of potential impacts on the environment in Region 8. Agriculture, and the industries it supports, is also one of the most important economic sectors for our States and Tribes. With over half of EPA Region 8’s land area devoted to crop and livestock production, helping and encouraging ranchers and farmers to practice environmental stewardship is critical. The intent of this priority is to reduce or eliminate the use of chemicals on agricultural land, reduce methane gas release to the atmosphere, and promote land stewardship practices. Funding programs in this solicitation that support activities for this priority include Regional Geographic Initiatives, Source Reduction Assistance (Pollution Prevention) Program, and the Strategic Agriculture Initiative. Please see Section I, Part D, Description of Funding Programs, for specific information on the types of projects that would be applicable to the agriculture priority.

3) Mercury

Mercury is a potent neurotoxin that is present in the natural environment and bioaccumulates in fish. Fetuses and young children are most susceptible to mercury exposure. This priority is intended to reduce mercury release to the environment, minimize potential for mercury spills at schools, recycle mercury, and educate communities and sensitive populations about fish consumption advisories that can reduce exposure risk.

Funding programs in this solicitation that support activities for this priority include School Chemical Cleanout Campaign (SC3) initiatives, mercury household hazardous waste collection programs, mercury thermometer exchange/collection programs, thermostat mercury switch exchange/collection programs, automotive mercury switch end-of-life collection, artisanal mining mercury collection programs, hospital mercury collection programs, fluorescent lighting collection programs, mercury testing of fish, development of local fish consumption advisories, fish consumption advisory community outreach, and expectant mother and/or women of childbearing years fish consumption outreach. Collection programs must properly recycle or dispose of mercury. Funding programs in this solicitation that support activities for this priority include Source Reduction Assistance (Pollution Prevention) Program and the Resource Conservation Challenge Grant Program. Please see Section I, Part D, Description of Funding Programs, for specific information on the types of projects that would be applicable to the mercury priority.

4) Enhancing State or Tribal Capacity to Provide Public Health and Environmental Protection in Region 8

EPA relies on the collaboration of many partners to achieve its mission of protecting public health and the environment. This priority is intended to further improve the capacity of States and Tribes to deliver environmental program services, protect and restore their natural environment and protect the health of their residents. Entities other than State and Tribal governments that are submitting a project proposal under this priority (e.g., local governments, colleges and universities, school districts, non-profit and community-based environmental organizations) are encouraged to partner with an eligible State or Tribal entity. Partnering with a State or Tribe could include assisting a State or Tribe in meeting annual commitments and/or enhancing their knowledge base and capacity for protecting public health and the environment through information sharing and/or collaborating on work plan activities. Funding programs in this solicitation that support activities for this priority include the Regional Geographic Initiatives, Indoor Environments Program, Source Reduction Assistance (Pollution Prevention) Program, and the Resource Conservation Challenge Grant Program. Please see Section I, Part D, Description of Funding Programs, for specific information on the types of projects that would be applicable to the priority of enhancing State or Tribal capacity to provide public health and environmental protection in Region 8.

Summary of Funding Programs and Applicable Priorities

| Funding Program | Priority or Priorities for Funding |
|--|---|
| Regional Geographic Initiative | For water quality projects: Enhancing State or Tribal Capacity For air quality projects: Energy, Agriculture, Enhancing State or Tribal Capacity |
| Indoor Environments | Enhancing State or Tribal Capacity |
| Source Reduction Assistance (Pollution Prevention) Program | Energy and Climate Change, Agriculture, Mercury, Enhancing State or Tribal Capacity |
| Strategic Agriculture Initiative | Agriculture |
| Resource Conservation Challenge (RCC) Grant Initiative | Energy and Climate Change, Enhancing State or Tribal Capacity |

C. Requirements for Outcomes and Outputs

In compliance with EPA Order 5700.7 on environmental results, applicants are required to address outcome and output environmental measurements in their proposals. The term “output” refers to an environmental activity or effort and associated work product that will be produced or provided over a period of time or by a specified date. Outputs may be quantitative or qualitative but must be measurable during the funding period. Examples of outputs include but are not limited to the number of stakeholder groups involved in the process, the number of facilities participating in a demonstration, the development of a report or training manual, increased monitoring, the number of workshops or training courses conducted and the number of people trained.

The term “outcome” means the result, effect or consequence that will occur from carrying out an environmental program or activity. Outcomes may be environmental, behavioral, health-related or programmatic in nature but must be quantitative. There are two major types of outcomes – end outcomes and intermediate outcomes. End outcomes are the desired end or ultimate results of a project or program. They represent results that lead to environmental or public health improvement. A change in water quality and resultant change in human health or environmental impacts are examples of end outcomes. Intermediate outcomes are outcomes that are expected to lead to end outcomes but are not themselves “ends”. For example, for an air pollution project, reductions in emissions may be viewed as an intermediate outcome to measure progress toward meeting or contributing to end outcomes of improved ambient air quality and reduced illness from air pollution.

The expected outputs and outcomes for awards under the programs covered by this announcement are listed in Section D below.

D. Description of Funding Programs

There are five funding programs for which awards are expected to be made under this announcement. Each of these programs is described below including information about the priorities they align with and their expectations for outputs and outcomes. Applicants’ proposed projects must address **one** of the five funding programs covered by this announcement – a single proposal cannot cover more than one funding program. However, applicants may submit the same project for consideration under different funding programs, but if they do so, they must submit them in separate proposals which must address the applicable funding program criteria (for example, a pesticides reduction project may be submitted to both the Source Reduction Assistance (Pollution Prevention) Program and the Strategic Agriculture Initiative and must address the applicable criteria for each). In addition, applicants may submit different project proposals to different funding programs so long as each submission is in the form of a separate proposal. Note that the Indoor Environments Program allows for multiple types of activities to be conducted under one project so a single proposal could include a combination of Tools for Schools, asthma and/or environmental tobacco smoke activities.

1) Regional Geographic Initiatives (RGI)

RGI funds support water quality and air quality projects that have been identified as a high priority by Region, States, Tribes, localities or citizen groups due to high or potentially high human health or

ecosystem risk, or due to significant potential for risk reduction or avoidance as discussed in more detail below. The request for proposals related to water quality is focused on the Great Salt Lake Watershed. Thus, proposals submitted for the water quality portion of RGI must focus on the Great Salt Lake Watershed in the areas below. Proposals submitted must be either “coordination” or an “assessment” proposal. Proposals submitted with a combination of coordination and assessment will not be considered.

- a) **Water Quality Coordination:** This funding program supports **coordination** of research, investigations, experiments and studies focused on characterization and restoration of the water quality for open water and wetland features in the Great Salt Lake Watershed. The selection of this focus area was based on its relevance and importance to the EPA Regional Priority of Enhancing State Capacity as described in previous Section B and below. Proposals must be for the coordination of research, investigations, experiments and study activities among the pertinent stakeholders, e.g., Utah state governmental agencies, federal agencies and non-governmental organizations. EPA will only consider and evaluate proposals that are within the boundaries of the Great Salt Lake Watershed.
- b) **Water Quality Assessment:** This funding supports efforts to build state capacity in making water quality attainment determinations for the Great Salt Lake. Water quality assessment refers to the *process through which a decision about the condition/quality of water is made* - this usually involves interpreting the data against some societal value or goal (aka. threshold). Establishing these goals or thresholds for unique waterbodies such as the Great Salt Lake can be data and time intensive and necessitates a clear articulation of the question being asked and an understanding of the scientific complexities associated with the Great Salt Lake ecosystem. Numeric water quality criteria often form the basis for making assessment decisions. In the case of the Great Salt Lake, numeric criteria do not currently exist and thresholds must be developed to assist with moving forward in interpreting the narrative standards. Direct measures of the designated uses provide useful tools in the assessment process; however, few direct indicators of aquatic life use support or waterfowl and shorebirds currently exist. Since direct measures cannot always be developed, secondary indicators that reflect environmental conditions can be valuable assessment tools. Secondary indicators typically reflect those stressors that influence the environmental conditions supportive of the designated use. In the case of the Great Salt Lake, these stressors may include (but are not limited to): nutrients, mercury, dissolved oxygen, etc. RGI funding can support the development of methods for interpreting use support. Proposals must be for the development of Great Salt Lake assessment methods which address Great Salt Lake relevant pollutants of concern. EPA will only consider and evaluate projects that are within the boundaries of the Great Salt Lake Watershed.

EPA’s funding authority for this program comes under Section 104(b)(3) of the Clean Water Act, for projects that “...conduct and promote the coordination and acceleration of research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys, and studies relating to the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of pollution...” RGI funds cannot be used by States or Tribes to carry out activities that would normally be funded under water quality (Section 106) or non-point sources (Section 319) State and Tribal Assistant Grants. States that have funded or intend to fund a watershed restoration project with Clean Water Act Section 319 funds cannot use RGI funds to support the same project. For example, if a state receives funding under this Request For Proposals for a

project with several phases, subsequent phases of the project could not be funded under Section 319. Separate projects within the same watershed could, however, if appropriate, be considered for Section 319 funding.

Projects funded under this program must demonstrate a clear link with the Regional priority of enhancing state capacity described below:

Enhancing State Capacity – Applicants other than State agencies are encouraged to partner with an eligible State entity that supports the state’s ability to meet EPA’s priority of enhancing Utah’s State capacity to **coordinate** among the institutions (stakeholders) involved in water quality and ecosystem research, assessment and restoration in the Great Salt Lake Watershed. An *example* that would align with this goal is creating and implementing a working framework for institutional coordination that would provide a holistic approach to Great Salt Lake Watershed research, assessment and restoration.

or

Applicants other than State agencies are encouraged to partner with an eligible State entity that supports the state’s ability to meet EPA’s goal of enhancing Utah’s State capacity to **assess** water quality and ecosystem condition and set thresholds in the Great Salt Lake Watershed. Examples that would align with this goal include: 1) projects that provide thresholds for evaluating attainment of direct measures of the designated uses or secondary indicators, 2) projects that assist the State in making progress on establishing thresholds related to the Great Salt Lake.

Examples of outputs under RGI Water Quality Coordination projects include but are not limited to:

- Creation and presentation of a proposed institutional (stakeholder) coordination framework in report form and implementation of that framework.
- Coordination of Great Salt Lake Activities across media.
- Development of a stakeholder shared understanding of the Great Salt Lake Watershed water problems and institutional settings and use of that understanding in improving coordination and partnership in research, experiments, studies and restoration.

Examples of outputs under RGI Water Quality Assessment projects include but are not limited to:

- Determination of risk to avian species based on their residence time in the GSL area.
- Evaluation of zooplankton as an indicator for the GSL.
- Compilation of DWR’s brine shrimp population data and development of preliminary thresholds appropriate for different areas of the GSL.
- A report documenting the risks of bioaccumulation of mercury to brine shrimp.
- Compilation of aerial imagery for the GSL and a report describing historical conditions and trends of algal blooms over time.
- Documentation of methodology to determine recreational use impacts using health advisory information or other indicators.

Examples of outcomes under RGI Water Quality Coordination projects include but are not limited to:

- Improved clarity of overall direction and how all entities involved in Great Salt Lake water quality work are coordinating their efforts and avoiding overlap in work efforts.

- Improved efficiency among stakeholder institutions in coordinating Great Salt Lake water quality efforts.
- Shared understanding and approach to addressing Great Salt Lake water quality problems.

Examples of outcomes under RGI Water Quality Assessment projects include but are not limited to:

- Ability to assess Great Salt Lake related to mercury.
- Ability to assess Great Salt Lake related to nutrients.
- Ability to assess Great Salt Lake related to bioaccumulation in brine shrimp.
- Improved understanding of baseline conditions for various relevant Great Salt Lake pollutants.

Projects funded under this program support progress toward EPA Strategic Plan Goal 4, Sub-objective 4.2.1 (Healthy Communities).

- c) **Air Quality:** EPA will consider air quality proposals addressing i) air toxics or ii) air quality related issues from energy and agricultural operations with an emphasis on greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), nitrous oxide (N₂O), Methane (CH₄) or Hydrofluorcarbon (HFC)-134. Where applicable, a grant recipient must agree to meet all EPA requirements for studies using human subjects prior to implementing any work with these subjects. These requirements are given in 40 CFR Part 26. For observational studies involving children and/or pregnant women, please refer to Subparts B & D of 40 CFR Part 26. No work involving human subjects, including recruiting, may be initiated before the EPA has received a copy of the applicant's Institutional Review Board's (IRB) approval of the project and the EPA has also provided approval. Where human subjects are involved in the research, the recipient must provide evidence of subsequent IRB reviews, including amendments or minor changes of protocol, as part of annual reports.

i.) Projects that address community-based air toxics: For air toxics projects, proposals must support and promote the coordination and acceleration of research, investigations, experiments, demonstrations, surveys and studies relating to local air toxics assessment, reduction, and/or elimination projects; however, applicants are encouraged to submit proposals where the majority of federal dollars go to education and outreach activities related to air toxics and/or demonstration projects which implement mitigation activities. For more information on EPA's community air toxics program go to the web site www.epa.gov/air/toxicair/community.html. Projects funded under this program support progress toward EPA Strategic Plan Goal 1, Objective 1.1 (Healthier Outdoor Air) and could support the Regional priorities of energy, agriculture and/or enhancing State or Tribal capacity to provide public health and environmental protection in Region 8. If a project proposal claims to enhance State or Tribal capacity and the applicant is other than a State or Tribe, the applicant is encouraged to partner with an eligible State or Tribal entity. Partnering with a State or Tribe could include assisting a State or Tribe in enhancing their knowledge base and capacity for reducing or eliminating air toxics through information sharing and/or collaborating on work plan activities.

Because there is a wide range of air toxics projects that could be applicable to this solicitation, potential applicants may find it helpful to look at examples of past community air toxics projects that have been done throughout the country listed on the web site

<http://www.epa.gov/air/toxicair/community.html>. Applicants should note that these are not the only examples of community air toxics projects nor is there any guarantee that these types of projects, if submitted under this solicitation, would be selected for funding.

Examples of outputs for air toxics projects include but are not limited to:

- Creation of multi-stakeholder partnerships
- Promotion and establishment of multi-stakeholder partnerships/collaborations
- Knowledge of refined risk information on the local level (improved inventories, modeling)
- Understanding of local areas of highest risk
- Localized risk information to supplement the National Air Toxics Assessment
- Integrating efforts to understand mobile, indoor and stationary sources
- Integrating relevant health information
- Development of federal/state/local capacities in air toxics assessment
- Implementation of air toxics reduction activities
- Development of means to measure results
- Development of outreach and education materials addressing air toxics
- Development and conduct of training courses addressing air toxics

Examples of outcomes for air toxics projects include but are not limited to:

- Reducing risks from exposure to air pollutants through collaborative action at the local level
- Developing a comprehensive understanding of sources of risk from air toxics and setting priorities for effective action
- Creating multi-faceted partnerships at the local level to improve local air toxics conditions

Applicants seeking funds from the RGI program to address community-based air toxics must address the threshold criteria in Section III of this solicitation as well as the general and program specific criteria in Section V. For funding information and eligible applicants for this program, see Table 1 on page 23.

ii) Projects that address air quality related issues from energy and agricultural operations with an emphasis on Greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), nitrous oxide (N₂O), Methane (CH₄) or Hydrofluorcarbon (HFC)-134. Projects must address, through research, investigations, experiments, demonstrations, surveys, and studies, identification and minimization of the impact of air pollutant emissions from the agricultural and energy sectors to ambient air quality and to air quality related values (AQRVs), such as deposition and visibility impacts. Projects that contribute to meeting this measure for the agricultural and energy sectors include conducting monitoring and analysis of air pollutants, source emissions quantification, improved emission inventories, and outreach on best management practices for reducing emissions. Projects funded under this program support progress toward EPA Strategic Plan Goal 1, Objective 1.1 (Healthier Outdoor Air). Proposals must demonstrate a clear link to either the energy or agriculture priority as described below.

Examples of projects that would support the energy priority include but are not limited to:

- Preparing improved inventory and control strategy evaluations of emissions of nitrogen oxides, volatile organic emissions, and air toxics from oil and gas exploration and production sources

that are not currently being assessed, but could have significant impacts on ambient air quality and air quality related values (AQRVs). This could include enhancing and improving existing emission factors and inventories and assessing control options that could be used to reduce air quality impacts.

- Conducting ambient air sampling, chemical analysis, and dispersion modeling to determine the impacts from air pollution sources, including sources from the oil and gas exploration and production sector, on ambient air quality and air quality related values, such as visibility and deposition.

Examples of projects that would support the agriculture priority include but are not limited to:

- Preparing improved inventory and emission factors to assist in determining the impacts of ammonia emissions from fertilizer application and livestock operations to AQRVs and ambient air quality impacts.
- Conducting source testing in order to quantify ammonia emissions to the ambient air from fertilizer application and livestock operations.
- Researching and compiling available Best Management Practices (BMPs) for reducing and controlling ammonia emissions from agricultural operations.
- Providing outreach and education to the agricultural community on BMPs related to reducing emissions that impact air quality and AQRVs, such as nitrogen deposition.
- Conducting ambient air sampling, chemical analysis, and dispersion modeling to determine the impacts from air pollution sources, including the agricultural sector, on ambient air quality and air quality related values, such as visibility and nitrogen deposition.

Examples of outputs for air quality projects include but are not limited to:

- A characterization of source types and emission amounts to the air from agricultural and energy related operations will that allow recipients to develop potential control strategies
- A final project report that documents and quantifies BMPs and activities related to implementation
- A final project report that presents analyzed data from ambient air monitoring or source testing
- Enhanced leveraging of resources from multiple sources to implement planned actions as part of an existing agricultural and/or energy related air quality initiative

Examples of outcomes for air quality projects include but are not limited to:

- Implemented Best Management Practices (BMPs) and outreach projects that reduce emissions to the air from agricultural operations. An example would be pounds of ammonia reduced per BMP implemented.
- Improved understanding of the type and amount of emissions to the air from agricultural and/or energy related operations that have historically not been assessed, but could have significant impacts on air quality and air quality related values (AQRVs) and ambient air quality.
- Improved capability by a State or Tribe to conduct emissions inventory activities that measure effectiveness and environmental results of actions conducted as part of an air quality program or of assistance provided by the state to local partners in measuring environmental results from such programs.

Applicants seeking funds from the RGI program to address air quality issues related to agricultural and energy operations must address the threshold criteria in Section III of this solicitation as well as the general and program specific criteria in Section V. For funding information and eligible applicants for this program, see Table 1 on page 23.

2) Indoor Environments Program

Under the statutory authority of the Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3), EPA Region 8 is soliciting proposals from eligible entities for projects that will enhance State or Tribal capacity to improve indoor air quality in homes and schools. Eligible projects include conducting and promoting the coordination and acceleration of education, research, investigations, experiments, demonstrations, surveys and studies related to the causes, effects (including health and welfare), extent, reductions, and elimination of air pollution in any of the following areas:

Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Tools for Schools: Funding is available for demonstration projects or technical assistance to assist school districts in demonstration projects of the Tools for Schools Program. The major goal of this work is to reduce school occupants exposure to indoor air pollution. Technical assistance includes identifying an indoor air coordinator or team for a school district, completing an IAQ walk through, distributing and collecting checklists and developing an IAQ management plan. Proposals must include the number of schools that will be targeted for introduction of the program and commitments in place for successful introduction. Also, proposals submitted by school districts must include a letter from the School District Superintendent stating their support for the proposed project. A more detailed description of the components of a Tools for Schools Program can be found at www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/pdfs/kit/district_wide_factsheet.pdf.

Asthma: Funding is available for asthma education and outreach projects that address environmental triggers for asthma and/or the building of community capacity to further outreach and education of asthma services (i.e., the established community-based coalitions, advisory boards, etc.). Projects can be for in-home or school-based education, outreach efforts, or other activities that promote asthma awareness and education. Emphasis should be placed upon groups that are disproportionately affected by asthma including children, Native Americans and populations that lack access to routine medical care. Proposals should include the number of in-home visits planned and/or the estimated number of asthmatic children expected to benefit from the proposed project. More information on asthma triggers and a sample in-home asthma checklist can be found at www.epa.gov/asthma/.

Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS): Funding is available for education and outreach projects on ETS and how it impacts children, and may include EPA's Smoke-Free Pledge Program. Emphasis is on the reduction of the number of children who are exposed to indoor ETS on a regular basis. Proposals should estimate the number of parents or caregivers that will be given information and/or the number of households that will pledge to be smoke-free. Awards under the Environmental Tobacco Smoke activity can be used to fund education and outreach projects on the health hazards of second hand smoke. Funding cannot be used to support smoking cessation programs or outreach activities related to smoking cessation.

Note: Proposals may include any combination of the three project areas described above.

Project periods under the Indoor Environments Program are for two years. Therefore, proposed work plans should reflect the two-year time period from October 1, 2008 and ending on September 30, 2010. Since it is assumed, but not guaranteed, that there will be funding available in the second year of the grant period, proposed work plans under the Indoor Environments Program should contain measurable outputs and outcomes in both the first and second year of activity.

The Regional priority applicable to this funding program is Enhancing State or Tribal Capacity to Provide Public Health and Environmental Protection in Region 8. As a result, applicants other than States or Tribes are encouraged to partner with an eligible State or Tribal entity. Partnering with a State or Tribe could include assisting a State or Tribe in enhancing their knowledge base and capacity for indoor air quality through information sharing and/or collaborating on work plan activities.

Projects funded under this Program support progress toward EPA's Strategic Plan Goal 1, Clean Air and Global Climate Change, Objective 1.2, Healthier Indoor Air.

Examples of outputs for Indoor Environment projects include but are not limited to:

Tools for Schools - The number of schools where training will take place, or the number of persons who will be trained in the Tools for Schools Program.

Asthma - The number of children attending asthma awareness class or the number of in-home visits planned.

ETS - The number of parents or care givers that will be given information on ETS, or the number of households that will pledge to be smoke-free.

Examples of outcomes for Indoor Environment projects include but are not limited to:

Tools for Schools - The number of schools where Tools for Schools training has taken place and program introduction has occurred, the number of schools that introduced portions of the Tools for Schools program, or the number of students that will experience improved indoor air as a result of the activity, or a measurable reduction in indoor air related complaints.

Asthma - Reductions in hospitalizations, emergency room visits or other episodes related to asthma resulting from an asthma education program, or the estimated number of asthmatic children who will otherwise be expected to benefit.

ETS- The number of children who will experience a reduced exposure to ETS as a result of the activity.

Applicants seeking funds from the Indoor Environments program must address the threshold criteria in Section III of this solicitation and the general and program criteria in Section V. For funding information and eligible applicants for this program, see Table 1 on page 23.

3) Source Reduction Assistance (Pollution Prevention) Program

The Pollution Prevention Act of 1990 defines “source reduction” to mean any practice that reduces the amount of any hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant entering any waste stream or otherwise being released into the environment (including fugitive emissions) **PRIOR TO** recycling, treatment, or disposal. Source reduction reduces the hazards to public health and the environment associated with the release of such substances, pollutants or contaminants. Source reduction practices may include equipment or technology modifications, process or procedure modifications, reformulation or redesign of products, substitution of raw materials and improvements in housekeeping, maintenance, training or inventory control.

The term “pollution prevention” means source reduction, as defined under the Pollution Prevention Act, and other practices that reduce or eliminate the creation of pollutants through increased efficiency in the use of raw materials, energy, water or other resources or protection of natural resources through conservation. **Under the Pollution Prevention Act, recycling, energy recovery, treatment, and disposal are not included within the definition of source reduction or pollution prevention.** All project proposals for Source Reduction Assistance (Pollution Prevention) Program funding must demonstrate a clear link with one or more of the Region’s priorities as described below:

Energy and Climate Change: Examples of projects that EPA would consider for funding include but are not limited to:

- Activities that relate to ENERGY STAR®, using energy more efficiently, or energy being developed from renewable sources. Information about the ENERGY STAR® program can be found at www.energystar.gov. See also www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/actionplan/eeactionplan.htm.
- Demonstrations for how a well-designed approach to energy efficiency can benefit stakeholders
- Integration of energy efficiency into the resource planning process by making efficiency a priority for long-term energy needs
- Promoting technological innovations that lower petroleum dependence
- Use of existing agricultural conservation programs to promote switchgrass and other biomass alternative energy development
- Promoting innovative measures to reduce pollution from energy production activities

Agriculture: Examples of projects that EPA would consider for funding include but are not limited to:

- Implementing more sustainable agricultural practices that protect the environment
- Developing and implementing Environmental Management Systems for agricultural operations
- Implementing innovative measures to reduce pollution from agriculture by turning waste products into environmentally beneficial products

Mercury: Examples of projects that EPA would consider for funding under this priority include:

- Source reduction projects that reduce chemical risks in public and Tribal schools. Information about the Schools Chemical Cleanout Campaign and Prevention Program can be found at www.epa.gov/sc3.
- Source reduction projects that support the Resource Conservation Challenge, develop new technologies and environmentally responsible behaviors by product manufacturers, users, and disposers. Information about the Resource Conservation Challenge can be found at www.epa.gov/rcc.

Enhancing State or Tribal Capacity to Provide Public Health and Environmental Protection in Region 8: Applicants other than States or Tribes are encouraged to partner with an eligible State or Tribal entity. Partnering with a State or Tribe could include enhancing their knowledge base and capacity for preventing pollution through information sharing and/or collaborating on work plan activities.

Projects funded under this Program support progress toward the following goals in EPA's Strategic Plan:

Goal 1, Objective 1.5 (Reduce Greenhouse Gas Intensity)

Goal 5, Objective 5.2 (Improve Environmental Performance through Pollution Prevention and Innovation)

There is flexibility of scaling up prior source reduction or pollution prevention projects to generate greater environmental impact. Projects that have the potential to be scaled up must include activities that align with one of the Regional priorities.

Examples of outputs for awards expected to be made under the Source Reduction (Pollution Prevention) Program include but are not limited to:

- Number of stakeholder groups involved in a process
- Number of assistance visits
- Number of workshops, trainings, and courses conducted
- Number of fact sheets developed or distributed

Examples of outcomes for the awards expected to be made under the Source Reduction (Pollution Prevention) Program include but are not limited to:

- Pounds of hazardous materials (to air, water, land) reduced or avoided through pollution prevention efforts
- BTUs of energy reduced, conserved or offset
- Gallons of water reduced or conserved through pollution prevention efforts
- Dollars of costs reduced or saved

Applicants will need to budget adequate resources to pay for measurement and reporting activities. In some cases this may require 10-20% of the proposed budget. Grant proposals must include project milestones specifying the outcomes and outputs that will result, and a clear description of the method(s) the grantee will use to track and measure progress in achieving the expected outcomes and outputs associated with each project milestone.

Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QA/QC). Certain quality assurance and/or quality control (QA/QC) and peer review requirements are applicable to the collection of environmental data. Environmental data are any measurements or information that describe environmental processes, location, or condition; ecological or health effects and consequences; or the performance of environmental technology. Environmental data also include information collected directly from measurements, produced from models, and obtained from other sources such as databases or published literature. Regulations pertaining to QA/QC requirements can be found in 40 CFR Parts 30.54 and 31.45. Additional guidance can be found at http://www.epa.gov/quality/qa_docs.html#noeparqt.

Applicants should allow sufficient time and resources for this process in their proposed projects. A project-specific Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) or functional equivalent must be submitted and approved by EPA. All projects will require a QAPP or functional equivalent.

Applicants for the FY 2008 Regional Priorities Grant Program are not required to submit a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) as part of the application package, but a QAPP may be required at time of award. Each grant award will contain a condition establishing a deadline for the grantee to submit acceptable quality assurance documentation to EPA.

Applicants seeking funds from the Source Reduction Assistance (Pollution Prevention) Program must address the threshold criteria in Section III of this solicitation and the general and program criteria in Section V. For funding information and eligible applicants for this program, see Table 1 on page 23.

4) Strategic Agriculture Initiative

The Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA), passed by Congress in 1996, establishes health based standards for pesticide residues in raw and processed food. It is intended to protect public health from exposure to pesticides and to create an environment favorable for the development and adoption of lower risk, effective crop protection tools for U.S. agriculture. The EPA, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and numerous agricultural organizations are working on efforts to implement the FQPA. For this effort, EPA, under the Strategic Agricultural Initiative, established regional programs for FQPA implementation and partnership activities to reduce risks and use of pesticides in agriculture. For more background information on FQPA, visit the EPA website at <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/regulating/laws/fqpa/>.

The purpose of the FQPA Strategic Agricultural Initiative (SAI) Grant Program is to help implement FQPA and support “transition” efforts by the agricultural community to more environmentally-sound pest management practices. The program supports grants for education, extension, demonstration and implementation projects for FQPA transition and reduced-risk practices for pest management in agriculture. The SAI program prefers projects that:

- Include a “whole systems” approach by integrating pest, soil, water and crop management practices;
- Address an array of commodities;
- Focus on sustainable agriculture (defined as farming practices that are environmentally sound, economically viable, and socially responsible);
- Incorporate conservation planning; and
- Have an outreach and extension component to their program.

Projects must also address one or more of the following goals of the FQPA SAI:

- Utilize demonstration projects, outreach, and/or education to increase the adoption of reduced risk/integrated pest management (IPM) practices that provide alternatives to the use of highly toxic pesticides (Organophosphates, Carbamates, and Fumigants) and other pesticides impacted negatively by FQPA decisions;
- Encourage partnerships between producers, commodity groups, scientists, extension, local/state/federal government agencies, and other stakeholders to demonstrate, promote, and utilize reduced risk/IPM practices in the field;

- Actively engage scientists, producers, industry, and local/State/federal partners in the specifics of implementing FQPA;
- Quantitatively measure and document the effects of using the reduced risk/IPM programs on the environment, human health and community;
- Facilitate a sustainable whole farm systems approach that utilizes reduced risk/IPM practices; and
- Demonstrate region specific pest management practices and integrated crop management systems to replace pesticide uses that may be cancelled under FQPA.

FQPA/SAI funds are not intended to support basic research, however, proposals may include a component for applied on-farm research, as long as they also have demonstration, education and/or outreach activities. Applicants are encouraged to maximize the use of project funds for actual project activities and reduce the amount of funds spent on administrative costs.

Proposals must include proposed measures of success. These measures should be linked to reduction of pesticide use/risks, implementation of sustainable agricultural practices and/or similar impacts. For assistance in developing proposed project performance measures, see the SAI Toolbox <http://www.aftresearch.org/sai> (SAI Grant Applicants, Performance Measures).

Projects funded under the Strategic Agriculture Initiative will support the Regional priority of agriculture and progress toward EPA Strategic Plan Goal 4 - Healthy Communities and Ecosystems; Objective 4.1 - Chemical, Organism and Pesticide Risk; Program/Project 92 - Field Programs.

Anticipated outputs for Strategic Agriculture projects include but are not limited to:

- Educational and outreach materials for farmers and ranchers
- Conservation plans for farmers and ranchers that include reduced-risk pest management
- Seminars, field days, and on-site field training
- Partnerships established between federal and non-federal programs to provide reduced-risk/IPM programs for agricultural producers

Anticipated outcomes for Strategic Agriculture projects include but are not limited to:

- Increased number of farmers and ranchers using reduced-risk/IPM tools and techniques
- Quantitative and qualitative benefits to human health, the environment, and communities
- Partnerships between agricultural producers, EPA, other federal/state/local agencies, and other interested stakeholders to implement reduced-risk/IPM programs and to leverage funds from other sources to increase the scope of the FQPA/SAI program

Applicants seeking funds from the Strategic Agricultural Initiative Program must address the general and program specific criteria in Section V of this solicitation. For funding information and eligible applicants for this program, see Table 1 on page 23.

5) Resource Conservation Challenge (RCC) Grant Initiative

EPA Region 8 is soliciting proposals to fund projects that address solid waste reduction, recycling, management issues including EPA's 31 priority chemicals, and waste tires management at the local, State, regional and/or national levels. Funds will be awarded for carrying out projects that serve the following states: Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming and/or the lands

in Indian Country belonging to the 27 federally recognized Tribes which fall under EPA Region 8's geographic area.

The goal of the program is to promote solid and hazardous waste reduction and recycling projects that:

- increase the national municipal solid waste recycling rate,
- reduce and recycle industrial materials (especially coal combustion byproducts and foundry sand),
- reduce and recycle construction and demolition debris,
- reduce the amount of priority chemicals found in waste streams,
- reduce the amount of electronic waste going to landfills and/or incinerators, and
- reuse and recycle waste tires.

All project proposals for Resource Conservation Challenge (RCC) grant funding must demonstrate a clear link with one or more of the Region's priorities as described below:

Energy and Climate Change: Examples of projects that EPA would consider for funding include but are not limited to:

- Projects that reduce the generation and disposal of one or more of the following materials and waste streams through reuse, recycling, composting, market development or product stewardship,
- Municipal solid waste (especially packaging and containers, and food and yard waste),
- EPA's 31 priority chemicals,
- Industrial byproducts (specifically coal combustion byproducts and foundry sand),
- Construction and demolition debris,
- Electronics, and
- Waste tires.

Example: Provide education and outreach, technical assistance, on new waste management technologies, and/or regulatory compliance, and/or market development for recycled materials.

Projects funded under this Program support progress toward the following goals in EPA's Strategic Plan:

Goal 3, Objective 3.1 (Preserve Land)

Goal 5, Objective 5.2 (Improve Environmental Performance through Pollution Prevention and Innovation)

Enhancing State or Tribal Capacity to Provide Public Health and Environmental Protection in Region 8: Applicants other than State or Tribal agencies are encouraged to partner with an eligible State or Tribal entity on a project that supports the State's ability to implement any of the four focus areas of the RCC. The RCC focus areas include Municipal Solid Waste Recycling, reuse, or reduction; Priority Chemical reduction; Industrial Materials Recycling; or Electronics Waste reduction.

Outputs: The anticipated outputs for the projects to be awarded under this announcement include, but are not limited to, measurable increases in the number of educational and outreach materials produced and distributed promoting one of the above mentioned priorities; additional organizations that commit to offer recycling to their customers; additional industries that beneficially use industrial byproducts; and technical assistance workshops conducted to share industrial material recycling or priority chemical reduction processes and technologies.

Outcomes: The expected outcomes of the awards to be made under this announcement may include, but are not limited to, initiation or increase in pounds of municipal solid waste reduced or recycled; amounts of Greenhouse gases (GHG) reduced, and BTUs of energy saved or recovered; and tons of industrial byproducts beneficially used.

Section II: Award Information

A. Amount of Funding Available: The total amount of funding available under this solicitation is dependent on final budget allocations which have not yet been determined for FY 2008. However, based on FY 2007 funding levels, we estimate that approximately \$653,000 will be available for awards under this solicitation. The breakdown of estimated funding expected to be available for each funding program included in this solicitation is shown in Table 1 on page 23.

B. Types of Award Agreements: Awards will be in the form of grants, cooperative agreements or, in the event a Federal agency is the recipient, Inter-agency agreements depending on the source of funds. Inter-agency agreements are made between two Federal agencies for projects that meet the needs and interests of both agencies. Grants have minimal EPA oversight. Cooperative agreements permit substantial involvement between the EPA Project Officer and the selected applicants in the performance of the work supported. EPA sees its role as providing training, tools, technical assistance and other support. Although EPA will negotiate precise terms and conditions relating to substantial involvement as part of the award process, the anticipated substantial Federal involvement for projects selected may include:

- ✓ close monitoring of the recipient's performance;
- ✓ collaboration during the performance of the scope of work;
- ✓ in accordance with 40 CFR 31.36(g), review of proposed procurements;
- ✓ approving qualifications of key personnel (EPA does not have authority to select employees or contractors employed by the recipient);
- ✓ review and comment on content of publications (printed or electronic) prepared under the cooperative agreement (the final decision on the content of reports rests with the recipient).

C. Dollar Range of Awards: The estimated dollar range of awards under all the funding programs will be between approximately \$10,000 and \$200,000 depending on the project type but it is anticipated that most projects awarded will be in the \$25,000 to \$75,000 range. See Table 1 on page 23 for specific information on the grant program for which you are applying.

D. Project Period: Project periods can be up to two years, except for proposals under the Indoor Environments Program, which must be for two-year periods. The estimated start date for projects awarded under this solicitation is October 1, 2008 and project duration would not exceed September 30, 2010.

E. Submitting Multiple Proposals (see Section I. D also): If an applicant wants to submit the same project proposal to different funding programs, they must be submitted as separate proposals that address the program criteria for each of those funding programs. However, a single project cannot receive funding from more than one funding program. In addition, applicants may submit different

project proposals to the same or different funding programs so long as each project proposal is in the form of a separate proposal submission.

F. Partial Funding Provision: In appropriate circumstances, EPA reserves the right to partially fund proposals/applications by funding distinct activities, portions, or phases of the proposed project. If EPA decides to partially fund the proposal/application, it will do so in a manner that does not prejudice any applicants or affect the basis upon which the proposal/application, or portion thereof, was evaluated and selected for award, and therefore maintains the integrity of the competition and the selection process.

G. EPA reserves the right to make additional awards under this announcement, consistent with Agency policy and guidance, if additional funding becomes available after the original selections are made. Any additional selections for awards will be made no later than four (4) months after the original selection decisions.

H. EPA reserves the right to reject all proposals or applicants and make no awards as a result of this announcement, or make fewer awards than expected.

Section III: Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Applicants: The types of entities eligible to receive EPA funding vary according to the requirements of each grant program and CFDA number. Table 1 on page 23 specifies eligible applicants for each of the funding programs and CFDA's included in this solicitation. Note that Tribes must be federally recognized and, for most funding programs, private individuals and for-profit organizations are not eligible to apply directly to EPA for funding; however, they may be able to participate in a project voluntarily or through a contract mechanism as described below. The only exception is that individual farmers can apply directly for funding under the strategic Agriculture Initiative.

B. Eligible Uses of Funds: In general, EPA funds may be used to pay for personnel, fringe benefits, travel expenses, outreach materials, supplies and equipment (though there are typically limitations on equipment). Awardees *cannot* use federal funds to purchase land, vehicles or other capital equipment and *cannot* use federal funds to lobby or to complete work which was to have been done under a prior grant. Funding may be used to contract for services provided the recipient follows procurement and sub-award or sub-grant procedures contained in 40 CFR Parts 30 or 31, as applicable. Successful applicants must compete contracts for services and products and conduct cost and price analyses to the extent required by these regulations. The regulations also contain limitations on consultant compensation. Applicants are not required to identify contractors or consultants in their proposal. Moreover, the fact that a successful applicant has named a specific contractor or consultant in the proposal EPA accepts does not relieve the applicant of its obligations to comply with competitive procurement requirements. Contracts must follow procurement guidelines.

Funding cannot be used for the purposes of routine program implementation, implementation of routine environmental protection or restoration measures, or meeting any legal mandate (such as federal, State or local regulations or settlement agreements). Regional Geographic Initiatives (RGI) funds may not be used for any activities that the Congress funds from the State and Tribal Assistance

Grant (STAG) account. This includes all categorical grant programs, with two exceptions for RGI: 1) These funds may be used for Section 103 Clean Air Act grants, IF the purpose of the project is to conduct investigations, experiments, demonstrations, surveys, studies and training to support program implementation AND the recipient is either an air pollution control agency or a non-profit organization; and 2) These funds may be used for certain activities under Section 104(b)(3) of the Clean Water Act. (Any submissions that fall in this category will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis).

C. Match Requirements: The Source Reduction Assistance (Pollution Prevention) Program requires a match of 5%. To calculate the appropriate dollar match, divide the amount of EPA funds being requested by .95 for the total, then subtract the requested amount to get the match. For example, \$25,000 of EPA funds divided by .95 equals \$26,316. Subtract \$25,000 from \$26,316 and the match required will be \$1,316. For the other four programs listed in this solicitation, a match is not required but leveraging funds from other sources may be considered in the evaluation of proposals.

D. Threshold Eligibility Criteria: Applicants and proposals must meet all of the threshold eligibility factors identified below by January 31, 2008. Only those applicants and proposals that meet all these factors by this date will be evaluated against the ranking factors in Section V. **Applicants deemed ineligible for funding consideration as a result of the threshold eligibility review will be notified within 15 calendar days of the ineligibility determination.** The threshold criteria are as follows:

1. Proposals must substantially comply with the proposal submission instructions and requirements set forth in Section IV, Parts A and B of this announcement or they will be rejected. If a single spaced proposal is submitted, it will only be reviewed up to the 12-page limit for proposals specified in Section IV; excess pages will not be reviewed.
2. Proposals must be postmarked or received electronically through www.grants.gov by January 18, 2008. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that their proposal reaches the designated person/office specified in Section IV of the announcement by January 18, 2008. Proposals postmarked after January 18, 2008, will be considered late and returned to the sender without further consideration;
3. The applicants must be an eligible entity under the funding program for which they are applying;
4. The proposed project activities must be eligible for funding under the funding program the project relates to, and comply with any restrictions or requirements related to funding under that program (see discussion of program areas in Section I.D);
5. The activities proposed to be performed under the agreement must take place in Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Montana, North Dakota or South Dakota, or on a Federally Recognized Tribal Reservation within Region 8's boundaries. Additionally, for RGI water quality projects, the activities proposed must take place in the Salt Lake City focus area and must be either "coordination" or an "assessment" proposal;
6. The proposed project must demonstrate a clear link to at least one of the priorities applicable to the funding program to which the proposed project relates;

7. The activities proposed must align with EPA's Strategic Plan goals, objectives and sub-objectives;
8. For proposals submitted for RGI water quality and the Strategic Agriculture Initiative, the activities proposed must not be duplicative of work already done or being done in the State or on the Tribal Reservation to which the project relates. In making this determination, EPA will consider information from its own program staff and may consider information from other sources. If proposed activities are duplicative, the applicant will be notified and the application will be returned;
9. If applying for Source Reduction Assistance (Pollution Prevention) Program funds, the proposal must demonstrate how the applicant will provide the required matching funds to meet the percentage requirement;
10. If applicable, the proposal must not be requesting funding less than the minimum or greater than the maximum dollar amount specified as shown in table 1 on page 23.
11. Each proposal must address only **one** of the five funding programs covered by this announcement (a single proposal cannot cover more than one funding program) – those that address more than one will be rejected. However, applicants may submit the same project for consideration under different funding programs and may submit different project proposals to the same or different funding programs as described in Section I.

Table 1: Funding Program Information for the FY08 RPGP

| Funding Program | CFDA¹ Number | Amount² Avail. in FY08 | Min/Max Dollars/ project | Matching Funds | Type of Award | Eligible Applicants | Strategic Goal(s), objective(s), and sub-objective(s), project must align with³ |
|---|--------------------------------|--|---|-----------------------|--|--|---|
| Regional Geographic Initiatives (RGI) | 66.112 | \$200,000 | No minimum or maximum amount per proposal | Optional | Grant, Cooperative Agreement or Inter-Agency Agreement | States, Tribes, local gov., federal agencies, institutions of higher ed, community based environmental and non-profit organizations | Goal 4, Sub-objective 4.2 .1 Goal 1, Objective 1.1 |
| Resource Conservation Challenge (RCC) Grant Program | 66.808 | \$100,000 | No minimum, maximum \$50,000 | Optional | Grants | States, Tribes, local gov., non-profits, federal agencies | Goal 3, Objective 3.1 Goal 5, Objective 5.2 |
| Indoor Environments | 66.034 | \$140,000 | Minimum of \$20,000, maximum \$90,000 | Optional | Grants | State, Tribal, county, city health departments, individual or groups of school districts, community-based orgs. or coalitions, non-profits, colleges, universities or other institutions of higher education | Goal 1, Objective 1.2 |
| Source Reduction Assistance (Pollution Prevention) | 66.717 | \$120,000 | No minimum but maximum of \$25,000 per proposal | 5% | Grant or Cooperative Agreement | States, Tribes, local gov., school dist and higher ed, non-profits, community-based grassroots orgs | Goal 1, Objective 1.5 Goal 5, Objective 5.2 |
| Strategic Agriculture Initiative | 66.716 | \$93,000 | No minimum but maximum of \$60,000 per proposal | Optional | Grant | States, Tribes, local gov., institutions of higher ed, non-profits including commodity groups/associations, farmers groups and individual farmers. | Goal 4, Objective 4.1 |
| TOTAL | | \$653,000 | | | | | |

¹ The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) can be viewed on the web site <http://www.cfda.gov>.

² The total amount of funding available under this solicitation is dependent on final budget allocations which have not yet been determined for FY 2008. The above amounts are estimates.

³ EPA's 2006-2011 Strategic Plan goals, objectives and sub-objectives can be viewed on the web site <http://www.epa.gov/ocfo/plan/plan.htm>

Section IV: Application and Submission Information

A. Content and Format of Proposal

The proposal format is described in detail in Attachment A and must contain the seven parts summarized below. Proposals should be single spaced. The page limitation for each part is a recommendation only but the total proposal cannot exceed 12 pages; any single spaced pages in excess of 12 pages will not be reviewed. Attachments (like letters of support) are not included toward the page limit.

Note: Applicants must refer to Attachment A when preparing their proposals.

Part 1, Cover Page: This page includes the project title, applicant's contact information, amount of funds being requested, the funding program the proposal is applying to and applicant's DUNS Number (see Section IV, Part D for more information on DUNS).

Part 2, Threshold Requirements: Applicants must describe how their project meets each of the applicable threshold criteria in Section III.

Part 3, General Criteria:

Programmatic Capability: Submit a list of federally funded assistance agreements (assistance agreements include **Federal grants and cooperative agreements but not Federal contracts**) similar in size, scope and relevance to the proposed project that **your organization** performed within the last three years (no more than 5, and preferably EPA agreements) and describe (i) whether, and how, you were able to successfully complete and manage those agreements and (ii) your history of meeting the reporting requirements under those agreements including submitting acceptable final technical reports. In evaluating applicants under these factors in Section V, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources, including information from EPA files and from current and prior Federal agency grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information provided by the applicant). If you do not have any relevant or available past performance or reporting information, please indicate this in the proposal and you will receive a neutral score for these factors under Section V. In addition, provide information on your organizational experience and plan for timely and successfully achieving the objectives of the proposed project, and your staff expertise/qualifications, staff knowledge, and resources or the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the proposed project.

Environmental Results Past Performance: Submit a list of federally funded assistance agreements (assistance agreements include **Federal grants and cooperative agreements but not Federal contracts**) that your organization performed within the last three years (no more than 5, and preferably EPA agreements), and describe how you documented and/or reported on whether you were making progress towards achieving the expected results (e.g., outputs and outcomes) under those agreements. If you were not making progress, please indicate whether, and how, you documented why not. In evaluating applicants under this factor in Section V,

EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources, including information from EPA files and from current and prior Federal agency grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information provided by the applicant). If you do not have any relevant or available environmental results past performance information, please indicate this in the proposal and you will receive a neutral score for this factor under Section V.

Part 4, Program Criteria: Applicants must address the program ranking criteria that apply to the funding program applicable to the proposed project. Program criteria are listed in Section V of this solicitation.

Part 5, Project Timeline and Deliverables: Applicants must list each activity described in the proposal and include a start and finish date for the activity. If applicable, list the deliverable(s) from each activity.

Part 6, Budget: Applicants must provide specific details about how the EPA funding will be used. List the amount of funds that will be used to support the specific activities such as paying salaries and benefits, purchasing supplies or equipment, contracting for assistance, paying travel expenses, printing outreach materials, etc. Include information on other funding sources, if any, and how those funds will be used to support the project. An example of budget detail can be found in Attachment B.

Part 7, Attachments: If you have letters of support from stakeholders and other parties contributing to the project, the letters must be included with the proposal and will not be accepted by EPA after January 17, 2008. EPA requests that you include no more than three letters of support with your proposal. Proposals for Tools for Schools submitted by school districts must include a letter from the School District Superintendent stating their support for the proposed project.

B. Proposal Submission Requirements

In addition to the 12-page limit expressed above, applicants must substantially comply with the following requirements:

- ✓ Use 8 ½ by 11 inch paper.
- ✓ Use no less than 1 inch vertical and horizontal margins.
- ✓ Use no smaller than 12 point font.
- ✓ Use single spaced lines.
- ✓ For proposals that are mailed or delivered in hard copy, submit two hard copies that are printed double sided and submit one CD-ROM with the proposal in one complete file that is either in Word or Wordperfect format. Letters of support should be included as PDF files.
- ✓ Hard copies must be printed on recycled paper with a recycled content of no less than 30% post-consumer material.

- ✓ For proposals submitted on Grants.gov, you do not need to submit a hard copy or CD-ROM and Grants.gov will allow you to attach files containing letters of support as attachments.
- ✓ Do not use covers, binders or folders.

C. Submission Deadline for Proposals

Proposals sent by U.S. mail must be **postmarked by January 18, 2008**. Proposals that are delivered via Federal Express, UPS or other commercial delivery service must be **received by the EPA office below by 5:00 p.m. mountain time on January 18, 2008**. The address for mail and delivery of proposals is:

Regional Priorities Grant Solicitation
Attn: Linda Walters
U.S. EPA Region 8 (8P-P3T)
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO 80202-1129

As an alternative, proposals can be submitted electronically via the web site <http://www.grants.gov> and must be **received by grants.gov by 5:00 p.m. mountain time on January 18, 2008**. The electronic submission of your application must be made by an official representative of your institution who is registered with Grants.gov. For more information, go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on “Get Registered” on the left side of the page. Note that the registration process may take a week or longer to complete so the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) should begin this process as soon as possible.

To begin the application process on grants.gov, go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on the “Apply for Grants” on the left side of the page. Then click on “Apply Step 1: Download a Grant Application Package and Instructions” to download the PureEdge viewer and obtain the application package. You may retrieve the application package by entering the Funding Opportunity Number, EPA-R8-2008-001 in the space provided. Then complete and submit the application package as indicated. You may also be able to access the application package by clicking on the button “Apply for Grants” on the left side of the page.

Detailed instructions for applying on grants.gov are included in Attachment C of this solicitation. If you have any technical difficulties while applying electronically, please call grants.gov for assistance by phone at 1-800-518-4726 or e-mail at <http://www.grants.gov/help/help.jsp>, or contact Linda Walters at (303) 312-6385.

Late proposals will not be accepted. Confirmation of proposal receipt will be made via e-mail to the person listed as the primary contact for the proposal. If you do not have an e-mail address, you will

receive confirmation by phone. Notification should be made no later than 10 days from the application deadline. If you do not receive any notification by this date, you should call Linda Walters at (303) 312-6385 to confirm that your proposal was received.

D. Requirement for DUNS Number

All applicants are required to provide a Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number when applying for a Federal grant or cooperative agreement. Applicants can receive a DUNS number, at no cost, by calling the dedicated toll-free DUNS Number request line at 1-866-705-5711, or visiting the D&B website at <http://www.dnb.com>.

E. Confidential Business Information

In accordance with 40 CFR 2.203, applicants may claim all or a portion of their proposal as confidential business information. EPA will evaluate confidentiality claims in accordance with 40 CFR Part 2. Applicants must clearly mark proposals or portions of proposals they claim as confidential. If no claim of confidentiality is made, EPA is not required to make the inquiry to the applicant otherwise required by 40 CFR 2.204(c)(2) prior to disclosure.

F. Pre-proposal/Application Assistance and Communications

In accordance with EPA's Assistance Agreement Competition Policy (EPA Order 5700.5A1), EPA staff will not meet with individual applicants to discuss draft proposals, provide informal comments on draft proposals, or provide advice to applicants on how to respond to ranking criteria. Applicants are responsible for the contents of their proposals. However, consistent with the provisions in the announcement, EPA will respond to questions in writing from individual applicants regarding threshold eligibility criteria, administrative issues related to the submission of the proposal, and requests for clarification about the announcement.

G. Management Fees

When formulating budgets for proposals/applications, applicants must not include management fees or similar charges in excess of the direct costs and indirect costs at the rate approved by the applicants cognizant audit agency, or at the rate provided for by the terms of the agreement negotiated with EPA. The term "management fees or similar charges" refers to expenses added to the direct costs in order to accumulate and reserve funds for ongoing business expenses, unforeseen liabilities, or for other similar costs that are not allowable under EPA assistance agreements. Management fees or simple charges may not be used to improve or expand the project funded under this agreement except to the extent authorized as a direct cost of carrying out the scope of work.

H. Contracts and Subawards

EPA awards funds to one eligible applicant as the recipient even if other eligible applicants are named as partners or co-applicants or members of a coalition or consortium. The recipient is accountable to EPA for the proper expenditure of funds.

Funding may be used to provide subgrants or subawards of financial assistance, which includes using subawards to subgrants to fund partnerships, provided the recipient complies with applicable requirements for subawards or subgrants including those contained in 40 CFR, Parts 30 or 31, as appropriate. Applicants must compete contracts for services and products, including consultant contracts, and conduct cost and price analyses, to the extent required by the procurement provisions of the regulations at 40 CFR Parts 30 or 31, as appropriate. The regulations also contain limitations on consultation compensation. Applicants are not required to identify subawardees/subgrantees and/or contractors (including consultants) in their proposal. However, if they do, the fact that an applicant selected for award has named a specific subawardee/subgrantee, contractor, or consultant in the proposal EPA selects for funding does not relieve the applicant of its obligations to comply with subaward/subgrant and/or competitive procurement requirements as appropriate. Please note that applicants may not award sole source contracts to consulting, engineering or other firms assisting applicants with the proposal solely based on the firm's role in preparing the proposal.

Successful applicants cannot use subgrants or subawards to avoid requirements in EPA grant regulations for competitive procurement by using these instruments to acquire commercial services or products from for-profit organizations to carry out its assistance agreement. The nature of the transaction between the recipient and the subawardee or subgrantee must be consistent with the standards for distinguishing between vendor transactions and subrecipient assistance under Subpart B, Section .210 of OMB Circular A-133, and the definitions of subaward at 40 CFR 30.2(ff) or subgrant at 40 CFR 31.3, if applicable. EPA will not be a party to these transactions. Applicants acquiring commercial goods or services must comply with the competitive procurement standards of 40 CFR Part 30 or 40 CFR Part 31.36 and cannot use a subaward/subgrant as the funding mechanism.

Section V: Application Review Information

There are three sets of criteria that proposals will be evaluated against: threshold criteria, general criteria and program criteria. As stated in Section III, a proposal must meet all of the threshold criteria in order to be evaluated and scored against the general and program criteria. General criteria account for 20 points and program criteria account for 80 points for a total possible score of 100 points.

A. General Criteria (20 points possible)

All applicants must address in their proposal, and will be evaluated against, the following criteria:

1. **Programmatic Capability: (10 Points)** Under this criterion, applicants will be evaluated based on their ability to successfully complete and manage the proposed project taking into account the applicant's: (i) past performance in successfully completing and managing federally funded

assistance agreements (**assistance agreements include Federal grants and cooperative agreements but not Federal contracts**) similar in size, scope, and relevance to the proposed project performed within the last 3 years, (ii) history of meeting reporting requirements under federally funded assistance agreements (**assistance agreements include Federal grants and cooperative agreements but not Federal contracts**) similar in size, scope, and relevance to the proposed project performed within the last 3 years and submitting acceptable final technical reports under those agreements, (iii) organizational experience and plan for timely and successfully achieving the objectives of the proposed project, and (iv) staff expertise/qualifications, staff knowledge, and resources or the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the proposed project.

Please Note: In evaluating applicants under this criterion, the Agency will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources including agency files and prior/current grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information supplied by the applicant). Applicants with no relevant or available past performance or reporting history (items i and ii above), will receive a neutral score for those elements of this criterion. **(1 point)**

2. **Environmental Results Past Performance: (10 Points)** Under this criterion, applicants will be evaluated based on the extent and quality to which they adequately documented and/or reported on their progress towards achieving the expected results (e.g., outcomes and outputs) under Federal agency assistance agreements (**assistance agreements include Federal grants and cooperative agreements but not Federal contracts**) performed within the last three years, and if such progress was not being made whether the applicant adequately documented and/or reported why not.

Please Note: In evaluating applicants under this factor, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources including agency files and prior/current grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information supplied by the applicant). Applicants with no relevant or available past performance reporting history will receive a neutral score for this factor. **(1 point)**

B. Program Specific Criteria (80 points possible)

Applicants must address, and will be evaluated based on, the program criteria for the funding program under which they are applying. Proposals will be evaluated based on the extent and quality to which they address the criteria.

1. Regional Geographic Initiative (RGI)

All applicants must address in their proposal, and will be evaluated against, the following criteria:

CRITERIA FOR RGI FUNDING TO PROTECT AND RESTORE WATER QUALITY:

a.) The extent to which the proposed project aligns with the Regional Priority of enhancing State capacity - 20 points

b.) Whether the proposed coordination/assessment activities demonstrate their ability to provide for coordination/assessment of Great Salt Lake activities/or relevant water quality thresholds – 30 points

c.) Whether the proposal includes and describes the appropriate level of active State, local, federal and non-governmental organizational stakeholder participation and support that is appropriate in the context of Great Salt Lake coordination/assessment including, but not limited to, leveraged funding. Under this criterion, applicants will be evaluated based on the extent they demonstrate (i) how they will coordinate the use of EPA funding with other Federal and/or non Federal sources of funds to leverage additional resources to carry out the proposed project(s) and/or (ii) that EPA funding will complement activities relevant to the proposed project(s) carried out by the applicant with other sources of funds or resources. Applicants may use their own funds or other resources for a voluntary match or cost share if the standards at 40 CFR 30.23 or 40 CFR 31.24, as applicable, are met. Only eligible and allowable costs may be used for matches or cost shares. Other Federal grants may not be used as matches or cost shares without specific statutory authority - 15 points

d.) Whether the proposal identifies project outputs and outcomes (See Section I.D), and a plan for tracking and measuring progress towards achieving the expected project outputs and outcomes - 15 points

CRITERIA FOR RGI FUNDING OF COMMUNITY-BASED AIR TOXICS PROJECTS AND AIR QUALITY RELATED ISSUES:

a.) Whether the project proposes to address air quality issues in a new or on-going facilitated, collaborative, and/or stakeholder process – 15 points

b.(1) For proposals addressing air quality related issues, whether the project includes potential multi-media benefits and/or addresses air quality issues that have an impact and interest regionally or nationally – 15 points

OR

b.(2) For proposals addressing air toxics issues, whether the assessment and priority setting of geographic area, industry sectors, and/or toxic air pollutants of concern are within a community setting – 15 points.

c.(1) For proposals addressing air quality related issues, whether the project proposes activities related to outreach and education, improved understanding and/or control of air pollutant emissions from agricultural and energy related operations, which could have significant impacts on ambient air quality and air quality related values (AQRVs) – 25 points

OR

c.(2) For proposals addressing air toxics issues, whether the proposed project includes an array of possible outreach and education activities related to air toxics and/or possible mitigation activities to reduce and/or eliminate the air toxics of concern. Mitigation activities must meet the statutory authority category of a “demonstration” project. Demonstration projects generally must involve new or experimental technologies, methods or approaches. (Note: A project that is accomplished through the performance of routine, traditional or established practices, or a project that is simply intended to carry out a task rather than transfer information or advance the state of knowledge, however worthwhile the project might be, is not a demonstration) – 25 points

d.) Whether the proposal identifies and describes specific environmental/and/or public health outcomes and outputs that are expected to be achieved (see Section I.D), how the applicant intends to measure and track their progress towards achieving them, and how the applicant will document the results actually achieved – 10 points

e.) Whether the proposed project involves active participation from partners and leverages funds from other sources. Under this criterion, applicants will be evaluated based on the extent they demonstrate (i) how they will coordinate the use of EPA funding with other Federal and/or non-Federal sources of funds to leverage additional resources to carry out the proposed project(s) and/or (ii) that EPA funding will complement activities relevant to the proposed project(s) carried out by the applicant with other sources of funds or resources. Applicants may use their own funds or other resources for a voluntary match or cost share if the standards at 40 CFR 30.23 or 40 CFR 31.24, as applicable, are met. Only eligible and allowable costs may be used for matches or cost shares. Other Federal grants may not be used as matches or cost shares without specific statutory authority – 15 points

C. Source Reduction Assistance (Pollution Prevention) Program Criteria

All applicants must address in their proposal, and will be evaluated against, the following criteria:

1. Whether the proposal includes a well-conceived strategy to achieve goals and objectives - 34 points
2. Whether the proposal identifies specific environmental and/or public health outcomes and outputs that are expected to be achieved and how the applicant intends to achieve and measure them - 40 points
3. Whether the budget is realistic - 5 points
4. Whether letters of support are included from partners - 1 point

D. Strategic Agriculture Initiative Program Criteria

All applicants must address in their proposal, and will be evaluated against, the following criteria:

1. Whether the proposal focuses on sustainable agriculture and uses conservation planning and a whole systems approach – 20 points

Applicants must describe their agriculture program, including the program's approach to addressing an array of commodities, along with applied research and extension program components, and methods for grower participation and adoption of sustainable pest management practices. Programs that encourage a "whole systems" approach to pest management, integrating pest, soil, crop, and water management practices are preferred.

2. The importance of the project in relation to the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) – 10 points

Proposed projects must address critical pest management issues relative to FQPA and be consistent with the goals of the FQPA Strategic Agriculture Initiative. Projects must focus on actual results,

getting information and agricultural practices into the hands of farmers and ranchers who actually use them to shift away from FQPA-targeted pesticides to other methods of pest management. Proposals must discuss to what degree the project will: 1) reduce or eliminate the use of highly toxic pesticides; and 2) increase adoption of reduced-risk alternatives and/or sustainable integrated pest or crop management methods by agricultural producers.

3. On-farm demonstration with opportunities for multiple growers and other partners to actively participate – 10 points

Proposals must describe the partnerships and participation of farmers and ranchers as part of the project activities. Cooperation/partnerships with scientists, extension officers, pest control advisors, other non-profit organizations, and other partners is also encouraged. Include letters of support from collaborators, indicating their contributions to the project.

4. Outreach/use of extension to enhance the likelihood of grower adoption – 10 points

Proposals must include clear plans for extension, outreach or communication that will likely lead to effective learning and adoption of new practices, and how long term, sustainable adoption will be measured.

5. The commodity has region-wide significance and the project results are transferable to other areas – 10 points

Proposals must address one or more agricultural commodities. Applicants must discuss critical pest management issues, explaining the importance of the project and the commodity. Include how the agricultural practice and reduced-risk tools could be adapted to other locations with similar cropping systems.

6. Clear and concise measurable objectives – 10 points

Proposals will be evaluated based on the clarity of the project objectives and the degree to which the proposed project will: 1) reduce or eliminate the use of highly toxic pesticides (5 points); and 2) increase adoption of reduced-risk alternatives and/or sustainable integrated pest or crop management methods by agricultural producers (5 points). Methods (qualitative and quantitative) that will be used to measure progress and impacts should be clearly explained.

7. Environmental Results – Measurable or Quantifiable Outputs and Outcomes, Evaluation Plan – 10 points

Proposals will be evaluated on: 1) achieving predicted environmental results, the expected outcomes (identified in Section I), project goals, and the degree of quantifiable environmental change expected as a result of the project (5 points); and 2) the clarity of the description of project performance measures and description of the project evaluation plan (5 points). For assistance in developing proposed project performance measures, see the SAI Toolbox <http://www.aftresearch.org/sai> (SAI Grant Applicants, Performance Measures).

F. Indoor Environments Program

All applicants must address in their proposal, and will be evaluated against, the following criteria:

1. Whether the project has outputs and outcomes which are clearly stated, feasible, specific and measurable - 35 points
2. Whether the proposal furthers the strategic goals of the Agency as outlined in Section I, Part D, Description of Funding Program - 5 points
3. Whether the proposal demonstrates the cost effectiveness of the project (how many people benefit from the activity in proportion to the size of the budget) - 20 points
4. Whether the proposal clearly describes the benefits of the proposed project. For example, the degree to which the proposed project benefits children, Native Americans or disadvantaged populations that are disproportionately affected by asthma, ETS and other problems related to indoor air. Whether the proposed activity will take place in geographic areas not previously benefiting from past projects - 15 points
5. Whether the proposed activity is unusually effective or innovative in a way that achieves risk reduction among target populations - 5 points

G. Resource Conservation Challenge (RCC) Grant Program

All applicants must address in their proposal, and will be evaluated against, the following criteria:

1. Project Description (15 points)
 - The extent and quality to which the proposal presents a clear description of priority environmental problems or environmental significance of the issues which the project will address.
 - Whether the goals and tasks are clear and concise.
 - Whether the tasks, budget, and timeline are realistic.
2. Project Objectives/Goals (15 points)
 - The extent and quality to which the project addresses one or more of the EPA Region 8 priorities listed in Section I.
 - Whether the proposal specifies realistic goals and objectives that deal with the environmental problems or issues identified.
3. Project Benefits (30 points)
 - Whether the project includes a well-conceived strategy to achieve goals and objectives.
 - Whether the project will be sustainable, i.e., maintained into the future without additional EPA grants.
 - Whether the project takes a creative, innovative approach and/or implements successful models from other areas.
 - Will partnerships be formed as a result of the project?
 - The extent to which the project deliverables will be transferable or useful to others.
 - Whether the project includes an effective communication plan for the results.

4. Measurability of Project Results (20 points)

- Whether the project proposal contains clear output and/or outcome measures of success. Measures of success should be either measures of environmental improvement, or should be directly linked to such measures. EPA will look for quantitative and qualitative measurability.
- Whether the project will lead to measurable environmental improvements, e.g., amount of pollution prevented, waste reduced, reused, recycled, or resources conserved.
- Whether the project will lead to the creation of jobs or other economic development.
- The applicant's plan for measuring and tracking its progress towards achieving the expected outcomes/outputs identified in Section I.
- Will measurable results be available within the negotiated performance period?
- Whether the project proposal includes an effective communication plan for reporting the results.

Review and Selection Process for Proposals:

There will be a three-tiered review process under this announcement. The first tier will be a basic review of the proposals to determine whether the applicant has satisfied all the threshold criteria listed in Section III, Part D. Only proposals that meet all applicable threshold criteria will move on to the second tier review.

In the second tier review, a panel of experts in the funding program for which the proposal relates will review the proposals and evaluate them based on the general and program criteria in Section V. Note: Proposals for RGI funding will be reviewed by separate panels depending on whether the proposal is for a water quality or air quality project. Each reviewer will assign a numerical score to each proposal they review for their funding program, with a maximum of 100 points possible.

After the second tier review, proposals will be rank ordered by the funding program manager based on their numerical scores. The third tier review will involve a selection committee from EPA Region 8 making preliminary funding recommendations to the Region 8 Approving Official based on the final ranking and budgetary considerations. The Approving Official will make selection decisions based on the committee's recommendations and may also take into account other factors such as geographical diversity, project diversity and programmatic priorities in making final selection decisions.

Section VI: Award Administration Information

A. Award notices: Following final selections, the primary contact listed for the proposal will be notified regarding their proposal's status. Note: The dates below are estimates and are dependent on when Region 8 receives its final budget numbers. Region 8 will do its best to notify applicants if decision dates will be extended.

1. EPA anticipates notification to *successful* applicant(s) will be made via telephone or electronic mail by March 3, 2008. This notification, which advises that the applicant's proposal has been selected and is being recommended for award, is not an authorization to begin performance. The applicant must complete the necessary application forms,

work plan and Quality Assurance Project Plan (if applicable). Upon satisfactory completion of these elements, the EPA grants officer will send an award notice that is the authorizing document allowing work to begin on the project. If work is anticipated to begin prior to the award being made, prior approval must be obtained by the EPA Project Officer and Grants Management Office.

2. EPA anticipates notification to *unsuccessful* applicant(s) will be made via electronic or postal mail by March 17, 2008. In either event, the notification will be sent to the person listed as the primary contact for the proposal.

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

1. A listing and description of general EPA Regulations applicable to the award of assistance agreements may be viewed at:
http://www.epa.gov/ogd/AppKit/applicable_epa_regulations_and_description.htm.
2. Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs may be applicable to awards resulting from this announcement. Applicants *selected* for funding may be required to provide a copy of their proposal to their State point of contact for review, pursuant to Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs. Not all States require such a review.
3. **Disputes.** Assistance agreement competition-related disputes will be resolved in accordance with the dispute resolution procedures published in 70 FR (Federal Register) 3629, 3630 (January 26, 2005) which can be found at
<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/05-1371.htm>. Copies of these procedures may also be requested by sending a written request to:

U.S. EPA Region 8
Attn: Grants Management (TMS-G)
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO 80202-1129

4. **Data Access and Information Release.** The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-110 has been revised to provide public access to research data through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) under some circumstances. Data that are (1) first produced in a project that is supported in whole or in part with Federal funds and (2) cited publicly and officially by a Federal agency in support of an action that has the force and effect of law (i.e., a regulation) may be accessed through FOIA. If such data are requested by the public, the EPA must ask the grantee for it, and the grantee must submit it, in accordance with A-110 and EPA regulations at 40 CFR 30.36.

5. **Nonprofit Administrative Capability Clause.** Non-profit applicants that are recommended for funding under this announcement are subject to pre-award administrative

capability reviews consistent with Section 8b, 8c and 9d of EPA Order 5700.8 – Policy on Assessing Capabilities of Non-Profit Applicants for Managing Assistance Awards (http://www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/award/5700_8.pdf). In addition, non-profit applicants that qualify for funding may, depending on the size of the award, be required to fill out and submit to the Grants Management Office the Administrative Capabilities Form with supporting documents contained in Appendix A of EPA Order 5700.8.

6. **Instructions for Final Application Submission.** Following EPA's evaluation of proposals, all applicants will be notified regarding their status. Final applications will be requested from those eligible entities whose proposal has been successfully evaluated and preliminarily recommended for award. Those entities will be provided with instructions and a due date for submittal of the final application package.

7. Grantees will be required to submit periodic progress reports based on a schedule to be determined by the EPA Project Officer. The progress report should include, at a minimum, a summary of performance progress to date, detailed expenditures to date, problems encountered, successes achieved and lessons learned. The EPA Project Officer may specify other information to be reported. EPA will track this information to monitor the progress of the project. In addition, a final project report is required and the elements of this report will be determined by the EPA Project Officer.

Section VII: Agency Contact

Questions regarding this solicitation will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. mountain time January 10, 2008 and must be submitted in writing to the following e-mail address: r8cfp@epa.gov. Questions sent to this e-mail address will be responded to via e-mail within 72 hours. If you do not have an e-mail address, questions can be faxed to Linda Walters at (303) 312-6044. Please include a phone number so you can be called with a response. This solicitation, questions received, and answers provided will be posted on the web site <http://www.epa.gov/region8/grants/> (see Regional Priorities Grant Program).

Section VIII: Other Information

EPA reserves the right to reject all proposals or applications and make no awards as a result of this announcement, or make fewer than expected. The EPA Grant Award Officer is the only official that can bind the Agency to the expenditure of funds for selected projects resulting from this announcement.

Attachment A: Required Content and Format for Proposal

Proposals must contain parts 1-6 below and cannot exceed 12 single spaced pages--excess pages will not be reviewed. Attachments (Part 7) are optional except that proposals for Tools for Schools submitted by school districts must include a letter from the School District Superintendent stating their support for the proposed project and proposals submitted through the Grants.gov website must include a completed SF-424.

Part 1: Cover Page

Project Title:

EPA funding program you are applying to:

Amount of funds being requested from EPA:

Amount of funds provided as match (if any):

Name of organization applying for funds:

Name of primary contact for this pre-proposal:

Address for primary contact:

Telephone number and e-mail address for primary contact:

DUNS Number:

Part 2: Threshold Criteria:

1. Please indicate what type of agency or organization is applying for funding.
2. Briefly describe the activities that will be conducted under the proposed project. For example, research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys, studies, education and/or outreach related to solving what environmental or public health problem.
3. Please describe the geographic location of the project being proposed.
4. Briefly describe how the proposed project aligns with one or more of the Regional priorities of Clean Energy and Climate Change, Agriculture, Mercury, or Enhancing State or Tribal Capacity as described in Section 1, Part B and the funding program to which the proposal applies.
5. Please list the Strategic Plan goals and objectives this proposal aligns with (see Table 1 on page 23).
6. For RGI water quality and Strategic Agriculture Initiative proposals, please describe any actions you have taken to determine that the activities in your proposal are not duplicative of work that is being or has already been done.
7. For Source Reduction Assistance proposals, please describe how you will meet the match requirement.
8. Please indicate whether you are submitting this same project proposal for consideration by another funding program that is part of this solicitation.

Part 3: General Criteria

1) Programmatic Capability of Applicant: Submit a list of federally funded assistance agreements similar in size, scope and relevance to the proposed project that your organization performed within the last three years (no more than 5, and preferably EPA agreements) and describe (i) whether, and how, you were able to successfully complete and manage those agreements and (ii) your history of meeting the reporting requirements under those agreements including submitting acceptable final technical reports. In evaluating applicants under these factors in Section V, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources, including information from EPA files and from current and prior Federal agency grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information provided by the applicant). If you do not have any relevant or available past performance or reporting information, please indicate this in the proposal and you will receive a neutral score for these factors under Section V.

In addition, provide information on your organizational experience and plan for timely and successfully achieving the objectives of the proposed project, and your staff expertise/qualifications, staff knowledge, and resources or the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the proposed project.

2) Environmental Results Past Performance: Submit a list of federally funded assistance agreements that your organization performed within the last three years (no more than 5, and preferably EPA agreements), and describe how you documented and/or reported on whether you were making progress towards achieving the expected results (e.g., outputs and outcomes) under those agreements. If you were not making progress, please indicate whether, and how, you documented why not. In evaluating applicants under this factor in Section V, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources, including information from EPA files and from current and prior Federal agency grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information provided by the applicant). If you do not have any relevant or available environmental results past performance information, please indicate this in the proposal and you will receive a neutral score for this factor under Section V.

Part 4: Program Criteria

Address the program criteria for the funding program applicable to your proposal. For example, if you specify in Part 2 above that your proposal is applicable to the Strategic Agriculture Initiative, you must address the Strategic Agriculture program criteria in Section V.

Part 5: Project timeline and deliverables

List each activity described in the proposal and include a start and finish date for the activity. If applicable, list the deliverable (output) and outcome expected from each activity.

Part 6: Budget

Provide specific details about how the EPA funding will be used. List the amount of funds that will be used to support various activities such as paying salaries and benefits, purchasing supplies or equipment, contracting for assistance, paying travel expenses, printing outreach materials, etc. Include information on other funding sources, if any, and how those funds will be used to support the project. See the budget example in Attachment B of this solicitation.

Part 7: Attachments (not counted as part of the page limit)

Up to three letters of support can be included with the proposal. Letters will not be accepted by EPA after January 18, 2008.

Attachment B: Example of Budget Detail

Provide a detailed itemized budget using the example below to show the expenses for each of the following categories being performed within the grant/project period. Below the chart is a description of line items. Indicate what portion of the cost will be paid by EPA, and what portion will be paid by the applicant or other partners.

| Line Item | Detailed Description | EPA funds | Match funds |
|---|---|------------------|--------------------|
| Personnel | Project Manager @ \$600/wk x 12 weeks | \$7,200 | \$0 |
| | <i>Project Asst @ \$10/hr x 20hrs/wk x 12 wks</i> | \$2,400 | \$0 |
| | <i>Total</i> | \$9,600 | \$0 |
| Fringe Benefits | Health Insurance- 1 FTE @ \$35/month x 12/months | \$420 | \$0 |
| | Dental - 1 FTE @ \$40/mo x 12/months | \$480 | \$0 |
| | <i>Total</i> | \$900 | \$0 |
| Travel | Site Visit to XYZ Watershed Local Travel Mileage - 1000 miles x \$0.36 | \$0 | \$360 |
| | Meeting with project partners Air Fare for 1 person to Denver | \$250 | \$0 |
| | Per diem for 2 days @\$40/day for 1 person | \$80 | \$0 |
| | Hotel for 1 night for 1 person | \$75 | \$0 |
| | <i>Total</i> | \$405 | \$360 |
| Equipment | Lease equipment for 6 months @ \$1000 per month | \$6,000 | \$0 |
| | <i>Total</i> | \$6,000 | \$0 |
| Supplies | 100 pamphlets for community members @ \$2 each | \$200 | \$0 |
| | Computer equipment | \$0 | \$1,000 |
| | <i>Total</i> | \$200 | \$1,000 |
| Contractual | Training for 50 people @ \$100 each | \$5,000 | \$0 |
| | Water sample testing – 20 samples @ \$75 each | \$0 | \$1,500 |
| | <i>Total</i> | \$5,000 | \$1,500 |
| Other | Office needs (postage, phone, fax, etc.) | \$150 | \$150 |
| | Total | \$150 | \$150 |
| Total Direct Charges | | \$22,255 | \$3,010 |
| Indirect Charges | 10% of total direct charges | \$2,225 | \$0 |
| Total amount of funds requested from EPA and match | | \$24,480 | \$3,010 |
| Total Cost of Project | | \$27,490 | |

Personnel: Indicate salaries and wages, by job title, of all individuals who will be supplemented with these funds.

Fringe Benefits: Indicate all mandated and voluntary benefits to be supplemented with these funds.

Travel: Indicate number of individuals traveling, destination, number of trips, and reason for travel.

Equipment: EPA policy defines equipment as items costing \$5,000 or greater (that is, the total cost of equipment purchase or lease). Note that not all funding programs allow for the purchase of equipment and some programs encourage leasing rather than purchasing equipment. If your project requires the purchase of equipment, you are encouraged to send an inquiry to r8cfp@epa.gov prior to submitting your proposal to ensure that equipment purchases are allowed.

Supplies: Indicate any items under \$5000 to be purchased that will be used in support of the project.

Contractual: Indicate any proposed contractual items that are reasonable and necessary to carry out the project's objectives.

Other: Indicate general (miscellaneous) expenses necessary to carry out the objectives stated in the work plan.

Total Direct Charges: Summary of all costs associated with each line item category.

Indirect Costs: Organization must provide documentation of a federally approved indirect cost rate (percentage) reflective of proposed project/grant period. Applicant should indicate if organization is in negotiations with appropriate federal agency to obtain a new rate.

Total amount of funds requested from EPA and total match: Add direct and indirect costs.

Total cost of project: Add the total amount requested from EPA and the total amount of funds provided as a match for an overall project cost.

Attachment C: Instructions for Grants.gov Electronic Applications

General Application Instructions

The electronic submission of your application must be made by an official representative of your institution who is registered with Grants.gov and is authorized to sign applications for Federal assistance. For more information, go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on “Get Registered” on the left side of the page. *Note that the registration process may take a week or longer to complete.* If your organization is not currently registered with Grants.gov, please encourage your office to designate an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) and ask that individual to begin the registration process as soon as possible.

To begin the application process under this grant announcement, go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on “Apply for Grants” on the left side of the page. Then click on “Apply Step 1: Download a Grant Application Package and Instructions” to download the PureEdge viewer and obtain the application package. You may retrieve the application package by entering the Funding Opportunity Number, EPA-R8-2008-001, in the space provided. Then complete and submit the application package as indicated. You may also be able to access the application package by clicking on the button “How To Apply” at the top right of the synopsis page for this announcement on <http://www.grants.gov> (to find the synopsis page, go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on the “Find Grant Opportunities” button on the left side of the page and then go to Search Opportunities/Browse by Agency and then go to EPA opportunities).

You may access this solicitation on EPA’s web site <http://www.epa.gov/region8/grants/> or on the Grants.gov web site.

Application Submission Deadline: Your organization’s AOR must submit your complete application electronically to EPA through Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov>) no later than **5:00 p.m. mountain time on January 18, 2008.**

Proposal Materials

The following forms and documents are required to be submitted under this announcement for those applicants using grants.gov:

I. Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)

II. Proposal-prepared as described in Sections IV A and B of the announcement and Attachment A to the announcement – and attachments, if applicable.

The application package *must* include the following materials:

I. Standard Form (SF) 424, Application for Federal Assistance

Complete the form. There are no attachments. Please be sure to include organization fax number and email address in Block 5 of the Standard Form SF 424.

Please note that the organizational Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number must be included on the SF-424. Organizations may obtain a DUNS number at no cost by calling the toll-free DUNS number request line at 1-866-705-5711.

II. Proposal and Attachments

The proposal must contain the information and meet the requirements specified in Section IV Parts A and B of the announcement and Attachment A to the announcement. Attachments, like letters of support, should also be submitted.

Application Preparation and Submission Instructions

Documents I and II listed under Application Materials above should appear in the “Mandatory Documents” box on the Grants.gov Grant Application Package page.

For document I, click on the SF424 form and then click “Open Form” below the box. The fields that must be completed will be highlighted in yellow. Optional fields and completed fields will be displayed in white. If you enter an invalid response or incomplete information in a field, you will receive an error message. When you have finished filling out the form, click “Save.” When you return to the electronic Grant Application Package page, click on the form you just completed, and then click on the box that says, “Move Form to Submission List.” This action will move the document over to the box that says, “Mandatory Completed Documents for Submission.”

For document II, you will need to attach electronic files containing the information required by Sections IV. A and B, and Attachment A, of the announcement, and any letters of support as mentioned in Part 7 of Attachment A (and Part 7 of Section IV. A of the announcement). Prepare your project proposal based on the requirements of Section IV. A and B, and Attachment A, to the announcement and save the document to your computer as an MS Word, PDF or WordPerfect file. When you are ready to attach your proposal to the application package, click on “Project Narrative Attachment Form,” and open the form. Click “Add Mandatory Project Narrative File,” and then attach your proposal containing all of the information required by Section IV Part A and Attachment A to the announcement (previously saved to your computer) using the browse window that appears. You may then click “View Mandatory Project Narrative File” to view it. Enter a brief descriptive title of your project in the space beside “Mandatory Project Narrative File Filename;” the file name should be no more than 40 characters long. If there are other attachments (like letters of support) that you would like to submit to accompany your proposal, you may click “Add Optional Project Narrative File” and

proceed as before (applicants can attach the letters of support and any other attachments this way if they do not include them with the proposal as described above). When you have finished attaching the necessary documents, click “Close Form.” When you return to the “Grant Application Package” page, select the “Project Narrative Attachment Form” and click “Move Form to Submission List.” The form should now appear in the box that says, “Mandatory Completed Documents for Submission.”

Once you have finished filling out all of the forms/attachments and they appear in one of the “Completed Documents for Submission” boxes, click the “Save” button that appears at the top of the Web page. It is suggested that you save the document a second time, using a different name, since this will make it easier to submit an amended package later if necessary. Please use the following format when saving your file: “Applicant Name – FY08 R8 RPGP – 1st Submission” or “Applicant Name – FY08 R8 RPGP – Back-up Submission.” If it becomes necessary to submit an amended package at a later date, then the name of the 2nd submission should be changed to “Applicant Name – FY08 R8 RPGP – 2nd Submission.”

Once your application package has been completed and saved, send it to your AOR for submission to U.S. EPA through Grants.gov. Please advise your AOR to close all other software programs before attempting to submit the application package through Grants.gov.

In the “Application Filing Name” box, your AOR should enter your organization’s name (abbreviate where possible), the fiscal year (e.g., FY08), and the grant category (e.g., R8 RPGP). The filing name should not exceed 40 characters. From the “Grant Application Package” page, your AOR may submit the application package by clicking the “Submit” button that appears at the top of the page. The AOR will then be asked to verify the agency and funding opportunity number for which the application package is being submitted. If problems are encountered during the submission process, the AOR should reboot his/her computer before trying to submit the application package again. [It may be necessary to turn off the computer (not just restart it) before attempting to submit the package again.] If the AOR continues to experience submission problems, he/she may contact Grants.gov for assistance by phone at 1-800-518-4726 or e-mail at <http://www.grants.gov/help/help.jsp>, or contact Linda Walters at (303) 312-6385.

If you have not received a confirmation of receipt from EPA (*not from grants.gov*) by January 31, 2008, please contact Linda Walters at (303) 312-6385. Failure to do so may result in your proposal not being reviewed.